

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An adjustable linkage mechanism for pivotable support of an object, said linkage comprising:

a supporting pivot shaft;

a pair of arms rotatably mounted on said supporting pivot shaft, said arms being in a releasable interlocking relationship relative to one another;

a handle connected to said shaft, said handle providing means for allowing interlocking engagement of said arms; and

friction retention means for resisting rotational movement of said arms, said friction retention means allowing said arms to retain said position of said interlocking relationship while said arms are in an axially disengaged relationship.

2. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 1 wherein each of said arms further comprises an inwardly facing surface positioned for fixed rotational engagement with one another.

3. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 2 further comprising means for adjusting retention ability of said friction retention means.

4. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 3 wherein said retention adjusting means further comprises a threaded locking nut and an externally threaded collar, said collar comprising:

a head, said head bearing against an oppositely disposed surface of said inwardly facing surface of one of said arms;

a through bore for slidably receiving said shaft; and

an externally threaded portion, said threaded portion securing said locking nut to said collar.

5. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 4 wherein said friction retention means rests between said locking nut and said one of said arms.

6. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 2 wherein said inwardly facing surfaces of said arms further comprise meshing teeth.

7. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 1 further comprising means for adjusting said interlocking engagement means of said handle.

8. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 1 further comprising biasing means for axially disengaging said interlocking arms.

9. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 8 wherein said biasing means comprises a helically wound compression spring circumjacently mounted on said shaft.

10. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 8 wherein said biasing means comprises a Bellville washer circumjacently mounted on said shaft.

11. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 10 wherein said biasing means further comprises a helically wound compression spring circumjacently mounted on said shaft.

12. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 11 wherein said biasing means further comprises a second Bellville washer, said second Bellville washer oppositely disposed to said first Bellville washer.

13. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said pair of arms are coaxially mounted on said shaft.

14. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said handle is pivotally connected to said shaft.

15. (original) The linkage mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said supported object comprises a headrest.

16. (currently amended) An adjustable linkage assembly for pivotable support of an object, said linkage assembly comprising:

a plurality of arms connected end to end in a releasable interlocking relationship; and

a plurality of linkage mechanisms for pivotably connecting said arms, each of said linkage mechanisms further comprising a handle for moving said arms from an interlocking position to a disengaged position and friction retention means for allowing said arms to retain a relative position to one another, said friction retention means allowing said arms to retain said position of said interlocking relationship while in said disengaged position, each of said linkage mechanisms independently adjusted by said respective handle.

17. (original) The adjustable linkage assembly according to claim 16 further comprising means to adjust said friction retention means.

18. (original) The adjustable linkage assembly according to claim 16 wherein each of said arms further comprises an inwardly facing surface positioned for rotational engagement with one another.

19. (original) The adjustable linkage assembly according to claim 18 wherein said inwardly facing surfaces of said arms further comprise meshing teeth.

20. (original) The adjustable linkage assembly according to claim 16 further comprising biasing means for axially disengaging said arms.

21. (original) The adjustable linkage assembly according to claim 16 wherein said arms are coaxially connected with respect to one another.

22. (original) The linkage assembly according to claim 16 wherein said supported object is a headrest.